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December 20, 2001

**BOX PCT**

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PCT/EP01/04150  
- filed 11 April 2001

Re: Application of Hans Johann HORN  
"RING BINDER MECHANISM"  
Our Ref.: 3827.083

Dear Sir:

The following documents and fees are submitted herewith in connection with the above application for the purpose of entering the National stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 and in accordance with Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

- ☒ this express request to immediately begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
- ☒ an executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.
- ☒ a German Language International Application with European Search Report
- ☒ an English (translation of the) International Application.
- ☐ an English (translation of) Article 19 claim amendments.
- ☐ English translation of Article 34 amendments (annexes to the IPER) and German language IPER.
- ☐ an executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form.
- ☒ Twelve (12) Sheet of Formal Drawings
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment.

Honorable Commissioner of  
 Patents and Trademarks  
 December 20, 2001  
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It is assumed that copies of the International Application, the International Search Report, the International Preliminary Examination Report, and any Articles 19 and 34 amendments as required by §371(c) will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned can easily provide them upon request.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims .....	<u>45</u>	-	20	=	<u>25</u>	x \$ 18 = \$	450.00
Independent Claims .....	<u>1</u>	-	3	=	<u>      </u>	x \$ 84 = \$	
Base Fee .....							\$ 890.00*

**TOTAL FILING FEE** ..... \$1,340.00

\* A copy of the European Search Report is attached.

A check for the statutory filing fee of \$1,340.00 is attached. Please charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0877. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.492 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to said Account.

Priority is claimed from April 25, 2000, based on German Application No. 100 20 200.4.

Respectfully submitted,

PENDORF & CUTLIFE  
 Attorneys for Applicant

By

  
 Stephan A. Pendorf

Registration No. 32,665


**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EL568148051US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **December 20, 2001**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing cover letter including the German Language International Application with European Search Report, English Language translation, Declaration and Power of Attorney, Preliminary Amendment, twelve (12) sheets of formal drawings, payment of fee, and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **ATTN: Box PCT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
Sherri A. Campbell